

Third regular session 1999
13-17 September 1999
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
UNOPS

FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Responsibility of the United Nations Office for
Project Services in personnel matters: supplementary information

1. The present document is based on further consideration, in consultation with the Management Coordination Committee (MCC) and with the Under-Secretary-General for Management, of issues raised subsequent to the submission of document DP/1999/38 concerning the responsibility of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in personnel matters. It proposes a replacement of the draft decision put forward in paragraph 30 of DP/1999/38 with text reflecting that the objectives of the document may be achieved through more than one mechanism.

2. The MCC and other parties to the deliberations have reaffirmed the principle that the Executive Director of UNOPS should be entrusted with the appropriate authority and corresponding accountability for personnel matters, consistent with Executive Board decision 99/12 and relevant prior documentation. Document DP/1999/38 includes in the annex a draft delegation of authority prepared in June 1999 by the Office of Legal Affairs that provides one example of a mechanism that could be used to vest personnel authority in the Executive Director; further review has revealed that similar results may also be obtained through other mechanisms.

3. As a first step toward achieving appropriate authority and accountability for the Executive Director, the present document proposes a draft decision through which the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) shall delegate to the Executive Director authority to issue UNOPS letters of appointment and to administer UNOPS staff. The Executive Director therefore proposes that the draft decision put forward in paragraph 30 of DP/1999/38 be replaced with the following text:

The Executive Board may wish to:

1. Take note of the report of the Executive Director on the responsibility of the United Nations Office for Project Services in personnel matters (DP/1999/38);

2. Reaffirm that appropriate authority and corresponding accountability for personnel matters should be vested in the Executive Director, in accordance with the proposals contained in document DP/1994/62, of which the Executive Board took note in its decision 94/32, and with Executive Board decision 99/12, including the authority to issue United Nations Office for Project Services letters of appointment;

3. Request, as a first step, that the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme delegate to the Executive Director authority to

issue United Nations Office for Project Services letters of appointment and to administer the staff of the United Nations Office for Project Services in accordance with the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules;

4. Request the Executive Director to report on progress at the annual session 2000.
